

Plebejus idas empetri (Crowberry Blue)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Insecta* (Insects)

Order: *Lepidoptera* (Butterflies, Skippers, And Moths)

Family: *Lycaenidae* (Gossamer-winged Butterflies)

General comments:

17 peatlands; habitat specialist and regional endemic; few if any additional populations anticipated

Species Conservation Range Maps for Crowberry Blue:

Town Map: [Plebejus idas empetri_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Plebejus idas empetri_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Plebejus idas empetri is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic:

Plebejus idas empetri's global geographic range is at least 90% contained within the area defined by USFWS Region 5, the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and southeastern Quebec (south of the St. Lawrence River).

Notes: 17 peatlands; habitat specialist and regional endemic; few if any additional populations anticipated

High Regional Conservation Priority: NA

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Crowberry Blue:

Formation Name	Peatland
Macrogroup Name	Northern Peatland & Fens
Habitat System Name:	Acadian Maritime Bog **Primary Habitat** Notes: where host plant (black crowberry) present; Washington Co. only
Habitat System Name:	Boreal-Laurentian-Acadian Acidic Basin Fen Notes: where host plant (black crowberry) present; Washington Co. only

Stressors Assigned to Crowberry Blue:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High	
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High	
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low	

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat:

Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Lack of comprehensive survey effort to identify additional occurrences and monitor status/trends of individual populations

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IUCN Level 1 Threat

Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Nontarget species impacts from use of aerial pesticides -- e.g., Spruce Budworm control

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Housing and Urban Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Poorly planned coastal development in the riparian zone could alter peatland hydrology and/or nectar habitat

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Crowberry Blue:

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action

Category: Research

Biological Priority: high

Type: new

Prepare a statewide atlas and conservation assessment.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Actions Associated with the Peatland Lepidoptera Guild:

Conservation Action

Category: Species Management

Biological Priority: critical

Type: new

Prepare occurrence maps and pesticide spray consultation guidelines for rare Lepidoptera and distribute to strategic partners including Maine Bureau of Pesticides Control.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.